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emphasis, as he ought, on such cardinal facts in the administration of the moral universe as obligation, accountability, retribution ; but he is prone to be insensible to the numerous cases in which, without absolute insanity, obligation is weakened, accountability attenuated, and the descending scale of retribution equipoised. All these abnormal cases the philosophical physician appreciates ; and he gathers, in his professional walks, many arguments for merciful and kind construction on the part of man, and many hopeful thoughts as to the Divine pity and clemency, which the moralist might admit without reversing a single ethical dogma, and the divine without relaxing the rigidity of his creed. It is for this kindly and genial *calculus of the variables* in human experience that we most of all thank "The Professor," and not only for services of this sort just rendered, but for like offices of mercy in the earlier series of his papers for the *Atlantic Monthly*.

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29. — *What we eat : an Account of the most common Adulterations of Food and Drink. With some Tests by which many of them may be detected.* By THOMAS H. HOSKINS, M. D. Boston : T. O. H. P. Burnham. 1861. 16mo. pp. 218.

IF this book has not the keenness and pungency of the articles on the same subject in the *London Lancet*, it has the still higher merit of accurately guarded and abundantly verified statement, and manifestly that also of a sincerely philanthropic purpose. The author makes an unsparing and detailed exhibition of the frauds ordinarily practised on the chief commodities of table use, and describes the methods by which they may be detected. A large portion of the volume is devoted to milk, to the history and developments of the milk-controversy in the city of New York, and to the construction and use of the lactometer. We trust that the book will have a sufficient circulation to concentrate an array of watchful eyes upon a class of poisoners, who may, in former years, have had the plea of ignorance, but who can no longer ply their foul trades without incurring a very decided taint of the guilt of murder.

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30. — *Ancient Danish Ballads translated from the Originals.* By R. C. ALEXANDER PRIOR, M. D. In three Volumes. London : Williams and Norgate. 1860. 8vo. pp. ix., 400, 468, 500.

THESE ballads are chronicles of the mythical heroic age of Northern Europe, and are faithful exponents of that age, in its superstitions, its

domestic manners, its social ethics, and its customs of combat and warfare. They are all of them narrative in form, and the same heroes and heroines often recur, nay, the same stories, in different versions. They are spirited, dramatic, and full of stirring incident. We have read no collection of ballads so constantly exciting and so little wearisome. The translator divides them into Hero Ballads, Legendary Ballads, Historical Ballads, and Ballads of Romance. The able and learned Introduction contains a sketch of their literary history, an analysis of their metrical form, and a *résumé* of the national traits which they develop. To the student of mediæval literature they are a rich repository, while they contain much that will delight and fascinate every reader of cultivated taste.

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31. — *Gleanings*. By MRS. L. H. SIGOURNEY. Hartford: Brown and Gross. 1860. 12mo. pp. 264.

THESE are gleanings among the sheaves. They are chiefly poems of devotion, of the affections, and of domestic life, — the range within which Mrs. Sigourney has confined herself, and in which she has long enriched many hearts by the wealth of her own. Hers is pre-eminently a heart-inspiration, and she charms, not by a widely excursive fancy, bold imagery, or brilliant versification, but by truth to her own nature, and that a nature in harmony with all that is beautiful and all that is pure. In the literature of sensation she has no place, and she is therefore, we suppose, less read now than when in the immaturity of her genius she less deserved to be read. But those who seek in poetry not that which will stir the leaping pulses, but that which will soothe, halloo, and gladden, cannot fail to read her poems with delight, and will thank her for this latest — not, we trust, last — bundle of harvest sheaves.

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32. — *Mount Auburn: its Scenes, its Beauties, and its Lessons*. By WILSON FLAGG, Author of "Studies in the Field and Forest." Boston and Cambridge: Munroe & Co. 1861. 12mo. pp. 371.

So far as Mount Auburn is concerned, this volume contains twenty-five reasonably good engravings of monuments and groups of scenery, with a page of description facing each. The body of the work is a literary *mélange* on death, sepulture, sorrow, immortality, and kindred themes. The extracts, both in prose and verse, are from the best writers, and many of them have earned their place in such a collection